

THERE'S A WORD FOR THAT

"Faith"

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TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does it mean to have faith in something?
2. If faith is having a daring confidence in God, what characteristics of God give you the MOST daring confidence?
3. What's your "story of faith" going to be? Where will you lay down your little kingdom for the sake of God's kingdom?

"The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see." -
Eugene Peterson

LOOK AT THE WORD

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:1

Read the "hall of faith" in Hebrews.

- o Which story of faith stands out to you? And why?

How does faith reveal what we hope for?

Does faith always relate to what we cannot see?

- o When does faith relate to things we can see?

"And [Abraham] believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness."

Genesis 15:6

Abraham's faith was believing and doing.

- o Why are faith and righteousness connected?

Why does the Lord reckon Abraham righteousness after he believes?
Considering God's righteousness, what challenges might have Abraham faced before he believed?

Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. John 6:5

What are some reasons the people were coming to look for Jesus?

Why would Jesus test Philip?

- What does Jesus hope Philip will learn from this test?

Why did Jesus ask at all, if He already knew what He would do?

- What does this reveal about God and His relationship with His people?

LOOK INWARD

Nijay Gupta says Israel's "faith" involved simple trust and obedience in day-to-day life: in relationships, work, and service to God.

In daily life, what are the simplest things someone needs to have faith in?

What are ways that you have faith in your relationships? In your work? In serving God?

To live by faith was to live in trust and hope...to follow God even when that meant taking risks and stepping into the unknown.

Who is someone who has lived out their faith in a way that has inspired and strengthened yours?

- What characterizes that person's life? Are there certain habits, rhythms or practices you saw in their life?

Why can someone take risks and step into the unknown when they have faith?

When was a time that you took at risk because of your faith?

"Faith" is not something we do, and it is not something we think, but more properly... it is a togetherness we join by God's grace." - Nijay Gupta

Sarah said, "Faith is: A relationship, A way of existing, Form of risk-taking, Gaining + losing."

- Why is faith a "relationship"?
- Consider your faith: how is it a way of existing?

- What do you gain or lose because of your faith?

Often times, people think of faith on a spectrum between a spiritual band-aid or a living daring confidence.

When does faith seem to be a spiritual band-aid?

When does faith appear to be a daring confidence?

Where do you find yourself today? Why?

LOOK OUTWARD

Sarah asked, "when is the last time your faith led you into a new, or uncomfortable space?"

As a people described as "By-Faith-ers", when are you most comfortable in your faith?

What are ways that your faith can lead someone into an uncomfortable space?

What is the connection between an uncomfortable space and your life with friends, neighbors, co-workers, family members, etc.?

Nijay Gupta writes, "faith" is not something to keep inside or hide away... A life of faith is a whole new life given to God to be used as a vessel for his redemptive and grace-giving purposes for the world."

How does faith bring new life to the people around you?

What is the connection between your faith and God's redemptive purpose in the world?

What is one way that you could practice your faith outwardly this week?

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times. - Martin Luther

SO WHAT?

A life of faith isn't for me: it's given by God, for the sake of others.

BREATH PRAYER

Father God, may I live with a daring confidence today.

FURTHER RESOURCES

Coldest Night of the Year 2024

Our groups are gathering to support the vulnerable in our community by walking together and raising funds for Metro on February 24, 2024. If you can't walk, make plans to come and cheer or serve alongside the teams for an amazing chance to love some of the least of these.

Core-Equipping

If you're looking to change things up for your community group or meet a few new people and build a group, try one of our core-equipping courses in January! We are launching both the Prayer Course and the Bible Course on Tuesday nights, starting January 9, 2024! Check out trinitychurchkelowna.ca/courses